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Provisional summary record of the 41st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 20 July 2010, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Soborun (Vice-President) ..... (Mauritius)

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* Items considered together.

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

10-45710 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Ali (Malaysia), Mr. Soborun (Mauritius), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (*continued*) (E/2010/L.20)

Draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010" (E/2010/L.20)

1. **Mr. Al-Aud** (Observer for Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introducing the draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010" (E/2010/L.20), said that uneven and insufficient progress had been made in achieving the targets of the Programme of Action, which would end in 2010. Since 2001, only one country had graduated from that category. Moreover, the global economic crisis threatened the ability of developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be convened in 2011, would be critical in defining a new generation of results-oriented measures with effective arrangements for follow-up and monitoring of the new programme of action for the least developed countries.

3. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/65/61 and Corr.1; A/65/77-E/2010/56; E/2010/54 and Add.1; E/2010/L.22)

Regional cooperation (*continued*) (E/2010/15 and Add.1 and E/2010/16-20)

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/65/72-E/2010/13)

4. **Mr. St. Aimee** (Saint Lucia), speaking as Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization, acknowledged with appreciation the contribution made by various United Nations specialized agencies and other organizations in rendering assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories or providing for the Territories' participation in their programmes. Such participation was a welcome integration of the Territories into the international development and assistance community.

5. The annual regional seminars convened by the Special Committee had identified a number of socio-economic issues that must be addressed to benefit the Non-Self-Governing Territories. They ranged from the impact of climate change to capacity-building for full self-governance. The Special Committee had requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the Council's work in the expectation that, through economic and social advancement, the Non-Self-Governing Territories would come closer to achieving full self-government on their way to independence.

6. **Mr. Nour** (Director, Regional Commissions New York Office), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2010/15 and Add.1), said that the high-level dialogue held in July 2010 between the Council and the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions had focused on MDG 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women) in its relationship to the other Millennium Development Goals. The Executive Secretaries had stressed that neither the MDGs nor an economic recovery conducive to development could be achieved without a dramatic improvement in gender equality and the empowerment of women in the regions.

7. Overall, progress on the MDGs was mixed: the results achieved were uneven, both in terms of the individual Goals and in relation to individual countries and regions. Within a single country, there were often striking disparities between urban and rural areas and among different segments of the population. Even prior

to the food, fuel and economic crises, progress towards some targets had been lagging in most regions, particularly in maternal health, environmental sustainability and access to sanitation facilities.

8. In anticipation of the upcoming High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, Member States must consider ways to redress the shortcomings. Several creative measures that had been adopted to counter the global economic and financial crisis and the effects of climate change could help achieve faster progress towards the achievement of the MDGs, including State intervention to maintain economic stability and to mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable groups through targeted investment in social protection systems. Governments had responded to the crisis by allocating a sizeable share of their fiscal stimuli packages to social investments, including in agricultural and rural development, food-aid programmes and a low-carbon economy. Based on that experience, countries that had not done so could adopt national development plans that increased social inclusion through targeted measures and expenditure on priorities and gaps in areas related to the MDGs.

9. The crisis had demonstrated the value of South-South and regional cooperation as a means for countries to strengthen their resilience and achieve common goals. In response to the crisis, the regions had adopted coordinated measures and strategies, including emergency meetings of finance ministers, expansion of the Chiang Mai Initiative, the European Recovery Plan, the establishment of the Latin American and Caribbean Summit for Integration and Development and the recapitalization of regional and subregional development banks, all of which had been crucial to the prompt recovery from the crisis and illustrated the benefits of greater regional cooperation and coordination. Given the dynamic performance of the emerging economies, South-South cooperation would be all the more important for the achievement of the MDGs. It was also clear that environmentally sustainable growth would be a pathway towards recovery and sustainable development.

10. During the reporting period, the regional commissions had continued to promote coherent inter-agency policy responses through their chairmanship of the Regional Coordination Mechanism. The report explained the distinct functions of the Mechanism and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) regional teams. The regional commissions were working to establish useful two-way interaction between those mechanisms. Regional issues addressed at meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism could inform discussions at UNDG regional team meetings. Work on policy coherence could be conveyed to the teams for their debates on country policies, while elements of regional and subregional programmes could be included in country development assistance frameworks. Conversely, the Mechanism could draw lessons from the national policy experience of regional teams. Such lessons would thus be shared more broadly, leading to stronger policy convergence at the regional level.

11. He then introduced, on behalf of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/65/72-E/2010/13). The report emphasized that the Israeli occupation, including the use of arbitrary detention, disproportionate use of force, property destruction, home demolitions, mobility restrictions, lack of building permits and closure policies, intensified the economic and social hardships of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

12. Between February 2009 and February 2010, 85 Palestinians had been killed and 845 injured by Israeli military operations. Israeli authorities had demolished 220 Palestinian-owned structures in the West Bank, resulting in the displacement of over 400 Palestinians. As of February 2010, some 58 per cent of the barrier had been constructed and a further 10 per cent was under construction. If construction proceeded as planned, the barrier would isolate approximately 10 per cent of Palestinian territory, including occupied East Jerusalem and some of the West Bank's most agriculturally productive land. As of that date, there were also 550 closure obstacles in the West Bank, 80 fewer than in the preceding year, as part of a complex system of restriction of movement.

13. Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip had entered its third year in August 2009. The processing of clearance requests was lengthy and non-transparent. The insufficient and unpredictable supply of fuel to supply Gaza's sole power plant had exacerbated the chronic electricity shortage, with negative humanitarian implications. The ban on the import of construction

materials had prevented the reconstruction of most of the 3,500 homes destroyed and 2,900 homes severely damaged during the Israeli military offensive of December 2008 and January 2009. The blockade had reduced the availability of medicines: as of December 2009, 24 per cent of essential drugs and 18 per cent of essential medical disposables were out of stock in the Gaza Strip.

14. Israeli settlement activity continued in the West Bank, where the number of settlers was estimated at 301,200 in September 2009, a growth rate of almost 5 per cent, considerably higher than the average Israeli population growth rate of 1.8 per cent. By the end of 2008, another 200,000 Israeli settlers lived in 12 settlements in occupied East Jerusalem.

15. The Palestinian private sector's ability to create employment opportunities was declining owing to the partial destruction of Palestinian productive capacity, loss of land and natural resources to settlement and the barrier, as well as restrictions to movement, high political risk and administrative obstacles that undermined investment. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory had decreased to 31.4 per cent in the third quarter of 2009, compared with 32.7 per cent a year earlier. Almost 1.6 million people, or 38 per cent of the population, were "food insecure".

16. The Israeli Government's annexation of the Syrian Golan continued to affect the lives and human rights of Syrian citizens living there. The Government had continued expanding settlements since 1967 despite repeated United Nations resolutions calling upon it to desist. Israeli measures, including discriminatory water quotas and tariff schemes that favoured Israeli settlers, restricted the access of Syrian citizens to land and water, severely constraining the agricultural activities that constituted their livelihoods.

17. **Mr. Hijazi** (Observer for Palestine) said that over the previous 43 years Israel's military occupation of the Palestinian territory and the Syrian Golan had devastated the societies and economies of those territories. The true scale and long-term effects of that devastation were not yet fully known. Israel had systematically targeted the economic and social fabric of the Palestinian people, in violation of its obligations as an occupying Power under international law, as affirmed by the advisory opinion of 9 July 2004 of the International Court of Justice. Israeli policies and practices violated other international agreements as well as Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

18. Israel sought to instil a siege mentality through its system of walls, checkpoints, restrictions and humiliating procedures aimed at oppressing an entire people. That mentality was illustrated by the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip as collective punishment of its civilian population. As a result, 1.5 million people had now endured lives of hunger, dependency, need and helplessness for more than three years. More than 1 million people in Gaza suffered from food insecurity, while the United Nations Children's Fund had estimated that at least 3,000 children were severely malnourished. The unemployment rate in Gaza had reached over 50 per cent as the industrial and commercial sectors had all but collapsed owing to Israeli measures, including the destruction of industries, businesses and workshops during the military aggression of December 2008 and January 2009. Numerous United Nations reports, including the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, had documented the disastrous social and economic impact on Palestinian society.

19. The unjustified ban on exports had further decimated businesses. Even a traditional employment sector such as fishing had been marginalized by Israeli-imposed limitations on fishing: the International Committee of the Red Cross had indicated that the poverty rate among Gaza's fishermen had doubled in two years to nearly 90 per cent. Moreover, the severe currency shortage meant that workers were not paid in cash and were thus unable to contribute, however modestly, to the economy.

20. The blockade had put further strain on the health, water and sanitation systems. The health sector was near collapse as equipment fell into disrepair owing to a lack of spare parts, materials and fuel. Only 10 per cent of water was safe for consumption, yet Israel denied entry to the equipment and expertise needed to repair the sewage system. Many medicines classified as essential were unavailable in Gaza, including crucial haemophilia drugs. Schools were underfunded and lacked essential supplies, including paper for students. He wondered how denying paper to a population of mostly school- and college-age young people was conducive to peace and how such an outrage could still continue. It was no surprise that the Israeli measures in Gaza had been characterized as collective punishment.

a violation of Israel's obligations under international law.

21. The network of settlements, walls and checkpoints established by the occupying Power was intended to lay siege to Palestinian cities, sever East Jerusalem from its natural environs and strip it of its Palestinian Arab character. Construction of the wall would result in the de facto annexation of 46 per cent of the West Bank's aquifers, compounding its chronic water shortage. The punitive permit system employed by Israel in the previous six years had treated Palestinians as strangers in their own land and had devastated the health sector by isolating East Jerusalem, since Jerusalem's six hospitals were the main providers of specialized health care to Palestinians. Thousands of them were subject to the complicated process of permit requests, with its arbitrary delays and ad hoc suspensions.

22. While the overall unemployment rate had decreased in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, it remained an unsustainable 22 per cent. The rate was highest in the Gaza Strip, where the blockade had reduced employment opportunities. The situation was not much better in the West Bank, however, where the Palestinian Authority was unable to function and international aid was limited. There, almost 80 per cent of Palestinian communities lacked sufficient nutritious food and 84 per cent of families relied on humanitarian assistance to survive. Fifteen per cent of children under 5 suffered from malnutrition and a shocking 44 per cent suffered from diarrhoea, the main cause of death for children under 5 worldwide.

23. All those issues were part of a cynical, systematic policy aimed at forcing hunger, de-development and displacement on an entire people. The rate of displacement had reached an unprecedented level in the current year as Israel escalated its policy of emptying Palestine of its people. There had been a sharp increase in home demolitions and evictions in East Jerusalem, where the occupying Power continued to expand its illegal settlements.

24. Palestinians were resilient and remained deeply rooted in their land and committed to their national cause. They would continue to oppose the military occupation and seek to live in dignity, liberty and prosperity with peace and security. Despite the challenges, they would continue their State-building efforts under the comprehensive programme launched in August 2009 by developing and strengthening State institutions and providing the people with basic services.

25. The international community must make efforts to achieve the two-State solution for peace, which would ensure a just and lasting solution to the conflict. The military occupation undermined not only the viability of that solution but also the international system and the laws and principles governing it. Israel must be compelled to cease its illegal policies and practices in order to salvage the prospects for peace and stability and to allow the Palestinian people to realize their national and human potential.

26. **Mr. Khan** (Indonesia) said that the continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories was related to issues of legality, security and politics and had severe economic and social repercussions for the living conditions of the Palestinian people and the Arab population. There was widespread poverty, unemployment and inflation, caused by the global financial crisis, and climate change had made food and energy prices unstable. There was no real hope of the MDGs being achieved by 2015. Moreover, limitations on movement by Israel had affected Palestinians socially, and access to emergency humanitarian assistance was difficult.

27. Indonesia joined the international community in calling upon Israel to respect international law and international humanitarian law to achieve peace in the Middle East. It welcomed the proximity talks between Israeli and Palestinian representatives and supported the efforts of the parties. Israel must show its commitment by addressing the greatest obstacle to peace, which was the construction of settlements, particularly in East Jerusalem. It must halt demolitions and evictions and dismantle the settlements already built. It could not expect Palestinians to ignore a policy that was designed to alter the demographic composition and status of Palestinian territory.

28. Indonesia was committed to a viable and democratic Palestine and believed that the way forward was to provide continuous capacity-building assistance to Palestinians. In the context of the initiatives adopted at the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership Ministerial Conference on Capacity-Building for Palestine, held in July 2008, Indonesia and other countries were building capacity in social

development, governance, economies, infrastructure and finance.

29. **Mr. Zdorov** (Observer for Belarus), speaking on regional cooperation, said that the regional commissions should play an important role in helping Member States to mitigate the effects of the global economic crisis. The Economic Commission for Europe was one of the few such structures in his region that was not guided by political motivations. His Government was pleased with the results of the Executive Secretary's recent visit.

30. He welcomed the Commission's focus on assisting States with practical efforts to increase competitiveness by developing a business environment that was friendly to innovative businesses with high growth potential, establishing a system to finance innovative work, strengthening energy security, developing transportation links between Europe and Asia, and simplifying trade procedures. The Commission should continue to foster sustainable and even economic development and the integration of regional structures within Europe. It should pay special attention to countries with economies in transition and middle-income countries, with particular focus on the achievement of stable economic development. The Governments of States receiving assistance must, however, play a major role in developing the corresponding programmes.

31. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, despite calls by world leaders for it to end the blockade of the Gaza Strip and United Nations efforts to restore respect for international law, Israel had prevented humanitarian aid from reaching the Palestinian people, carrying out acts of State terrorism, including its action against the Freedom Flotilla. The Security Council must appoint an independent and impartial commission to determine liability in that case.

32. There must be an end to the Israeli Government's impunity, which was the main obstacle to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and violated the principle of the equal sovereignty of Member States and the legitimacy of the United Nations. Above all, that impunity blocked access for Palestinians to their most basic economic and social rights and their inalienable right to self-determination.

33. The toll of the genocidal aggression of Israeli warmongers against the Palestinian people was heartbreaking: dead and mutilated civilians, house demolitions, the planned destruction of basic infrastructure and imprisonment behind an inhumane barrier. In the Gaza Strip, especially, the situation was a humanitarian catastrophe: the Palestinians there had little access to basic goods and services, restrictions on fuel imports and a ban on imports of building materials. The lack of building materials had particularly affected the health sector. According to the World Health Organization, almost half of Gaza's health centres had been damaged or destroyed during the criminal Cast Lead operation.

34. His delegation found it deeply disturbing that, instead of any significant progress towards peace and the sustainable socio-economic development of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan, the genocidal Government of Israel had continued its policy of aggression and harassment.

35. The Venezuelan people and Government demanded an end to the inhumane blockade of the Gaza Strip and joined the call for immediate steps to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and the creation of a free and sovereign Palestinian State.

36. **Mr. Benítez Versón** (Cuba), speaking on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation, said that Cuba endorsed the comments of the observer for Palestine and hoped that the draft resolution that it had sponsored would be strongly supported by the Council.

37. Referring to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, he said that the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized bodies and other organizations of the United Nations system was essential to enable the Non-Self-Governing Territories to meet the challenges they faced in planning and achieving sustainable development. Much remained to be done, and it was to be hoped that the organizations of the United Nations system that had not provided information in response to the Secretary-General's request would put assistance programmes in place without delay.

38. **Ms. Davidovich** (Israel) said that her delegation was disappointed by the exploitation of the Council for political ends. In the discussions of thematic issues that concerned individuals and societies throughout the

world, the only country singled out for discriminatory and biased treatment was Israel.

39. The report before the Council contained misleading and one-sided information and deliberately ignored critical challenges confronting Palestinian society, such as the implications of Hamas terrorist control of Gaza. Despite that reality, the Government of Israel ensured that the Palestinian civilian population of Gaza received adequate humanitarian treatment. A new, joint task force established by Israel and the Palestinian Authority was scheduled to work on coordinated projects in the Gaza Strip, supervised by the international community. A balanced report would have noted such a step.

40. The Palestinian economy in the West Bank continued to grow quickly. The Council should note that that growth had been encouraged by the removal of a significant number of checkpoints, in direct correlation with the improving security situation in the West Bank.

41. The report also failed to mention daily coordination between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in public health, sanitation and the environment. There was cooperation in energy infrastructure and agricultural projects and there were joint forums on issues of women's empowerment that were pertinent to both Israelis and Palestinians.

42. One-sided reports and resolutions did nothing to build the confidence and culture of understanding that were essential for prosperity as well as for peace and security in the Middle East.

43. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that the note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/65/72-E/2010/13), which contained a report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, shed light on the economic and social suffering of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan. The report clearly reflected the brutality of the Israeli occupation, Israel's disregard for international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and its commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity, for which its leaders should be held accountable and prosecuted. The suffocating economic blockade imposed by the occupying Power on more than 1.5 million Palestinians, in full view of the international community, had led to severe shortages of food, water, fuel and electricity, disrupted health care, impeded reconstruction in the wake of the devastation caused by the Israeli military machine and halted the flow of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip. Crimes had been committed not only against Palestinian civilians but also against the international humanitarian workers aboard the Gaza aid flotilla, nine of whom had been murdered as they attempted to deliver humanitarian assistance.

44. Israel also persisted in pursuing policies and practices that tightened restrictions on the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan, denying their rights under international law. Its recent military exercise in that territory had resulted in the destruction of many acres of farmland. The representatives of Israel in international forums should remember that the international community rightly considered Israel to be an illegal occupying Power, which had imposed its laws in the occupied Syrian Golan in flagrant disregard for Security Council resolution 497 (1981).

45. The bill passed by the Israeli Knesset in December 2009 requiring that the implementation of any peace agreement resulting in Israeli withdrawal from occupied East Jerusalem or the occupied Syrian Golan must be approved by 80 per cent of all Israelis in a referendum confirmed that Israel defied the entire world in rejecting peace and that any expressions of a desire for peace on the part of its Government were merely political manoeuvres and ploys.

46. By adopting resolutions on the economic and social repercussions of foreign occupation on the living conditions of occupied peoples, the Council sent a clear message to the entire world and to future generations that the policy of occupying foreign territories was inhuman and violated all international and humanitarian laws. His delegation was baffled by the position of some States, which paid lip service to human rights but, when negotiating draft resolutions on the humanitarian, economic and social repercussions of foreign occupation, strongly opposed references to the suffering and rights of people living under such occupation, particularly when Israel was the occupying Power. Even if the Council was unable to implement its resolutions regarding the Israeli occupation of Arab

territories owing to the imbalance in political power structures, that did not detract from the weight and importance of such resolutions. The Council had a moral responsibility towards people living under foreign occupation, which Council members should not seek to evade.

47. His delegation hoped that the Council would adopt by consensus the draft resolution that was to be submitted under the agenda item, in order to demonstrate that it totally rejected the occupation of Arab territories, as a matter of principle and pursuant to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and also to reaffirm the many previous Council resolutions adopted on the same issue, which was of crucial importance for international peace and security.

48. **Mr. Tsymbaliuk** (Ukraine) said that Ukraine had been severely affected by the financial crisis and the accompanying economic slowdown, as exemplified by a decline in gross domestic product of approximately 15 per cent in 2009. His delegation hoped that the existing level of economic cooperation among the region's Governments and assistance from international and regional financial institutions would enable Ukraine to overcome the consequences of the crisis and restore economic growth. The outlook for 2010 was largely positive given the renewed support it was receiving from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the assistance from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank.

49. His country was reducing the Government budget deficit in line with the requirements of IMF and other international financial institutions. Social spending had generally remained level or increased and significant funds had been committed to rescue the banking sector.

50. His delegation agreed that it was premature to withdraw fiscal stimuli, despite increasing debt levels, and that the financial systems in emerging economies remained partially impaired and urgently needed to recapitalize and deleverage. However, further expansion of the industrial sector and institutional reform would be necessary for restoring robust economic growth in the medium term. Ukraine's economic recovery would be moderate owing to reduced consumer spending, high unemployment and dependence on global economic developments and foreign financial inflows. His Government hoped that the economy would return to its 2008 income levels by 2012.

51. Given the high correlation between progress in achieving the MDGs and national income growth, the economic crisis was likely to set back progress by four years for a large number of the targets. However, the Government was implementing anti-crisis measures, supporting the real sector of the economy, striving to save Government budget funds and cooperating in programmes and projects of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) aimed at enabling it to achieve economic growth of 4.6 percent in 2010 and even higher levels in the period 2011-2015. His delegation was convinced that Ukraine and other countries in the ECE region would be able to make significant progress towards achieving the MDGs by 2015.

52. **Mr. Rajabi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) reiterated his delegation's firm view that the Israeli regime's practices were affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories. Ending the more than six decades of occupation and providing the conditions necessary for the Palestinian people to freely exercise their right to self-determination should therefore be given the highest priority.

53. The Israeli regime had turned a deaf ear to numerous calls by the international community to cease what amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity. He recalled the barbaric attack in 2009 by the Israeli regime against the people of Gaza in Operation Cast Lead, during which thousands of besieged innocent Palestinians, including women and children, had been killed or maimed, and civilian infrastructure and facilities, along with the UNRWA compound, had been wilfully and systematically targeted.

54. While his delegation condemned the gross violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people, it believed that it was incumbent upon the international community to counter such illegal and inhuman practices, which were clearly contrary to international law. Indeed, there needed to be a greater emphasis on practical steps to enforce human rights standards and norms in the occupied territories.

55. **Mr. Hijazi** (Observer for Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the debate on the current agenda item was repeated annually only because of Israel's belligerence and its continued

occupation of Palestinian territory. By discussing and taking action on that agenda item, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to international law and sent a clear message to the Palestinian people that the international community stood with them to uphold their right to a life of dignity and prosperity in which their economic and social rights were protected.

56. It was an insult to the international community for the representative of Israel to state that discussion under the agenda item was political and one-sided, since the international community had repeatedly tried to uphold international law and the principles for which the United Nations stood. It was also misleading for her to suggest that the occupying Power was keen to facilitate the entry of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, bearing in mind that Israel had maintained its blockade of the Gaza Strip for almost three years, denying people food, medical supplies, petrol, building materials and other goods. It should be recalled that Israel, as the occupying Power, was required under international law to facilitate the entry of humanitarian assistance to the occupied Palestinian territory.

57. The Israeli-Palestinian cooperation referred to by the representative of Israel would be positive if Israel were to demonstrate genuine goodwill by ceasing its systematic aggression, its illegal exploitation of Palestinian resources and destruction of livelihoods, its building of illegal settlements and demolition of Palestinian homes, especially in East Jerusalem, and its construction of illegal walls and if it were to lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Draft resolution entitled "Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations" (E/2010/L.22)

58. **Mr. St. Aimee** (Saint Lucia), introducing draft resolution E/2010/L.22 entitled "Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations", said that, at the Pacific regional seminar recently held in New Caledonia, the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories had asked just as many questions on economic and social issues as on political issues, thereby demonstrating their awareness that the expression of their political will was intertwined with economic and social progress in the Territories. He urged delegations to support the draft resolution in the same spirit and not to focus on the political implications of the agenda item under which it was introduced.

59. He appealed to all specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that had not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to make a meaningful contribution to their economic and social development. The work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was, in particular, to be commended and he hoped that other agencies and regional commissions would follow their lead. He urged the members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

60. **Ms. Anzola Padrón** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution E/2010/L.22.

61. **The President** announced that Saint Kitts and Nevis and Timor-Leste also wished to join the list of sponsors.

A panel discussion on the topic "Opportunities for small island developing States" followed. The panel was chaired by Mr. Somduth Soborun (Mauritius), Vice-President of the Council, who made introductory remarks and introduced the panellists: Mr. Anthony Clayton (Alcan Professor of Caribbean Sustainable Development, Institute for Sustainable Development, University of the West Indies); Ms. Vasantha Chase (Director, Chase Consulting Ltd.); and Mr. Pierre Encontre (Chief, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development). The panellists made presentations. A question-and-answer session ensued, in which the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the delegations of Grenada, Saint Lucia, Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Solomon Islands, Cuba and Maldives, and by the observer for the European Union. The panellists made concluding remarks and the Chair closed the panel discussion.

The meeting rose at 1.50 p.m.

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Economic and Social Council

Provisional

8 October 2010

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General segment

Provisional summary record of the 42nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 20 July 2010, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Soborun (Vice-President) . . . . . (Mauritius)

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10-45713 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Ali (Malaysia), Mr. Soborun (Mauritius), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Elections and appointments

International Narcotics Control Board (E/2010/9/Add.15-Add.17)

1. **The President** noted that Argentina had withdrawn its candidature for the International Narcotics Control Board, which would be reflected in forthcoming document E/2010/9/Add.18.

Commission on Population and Development

2. **The President** said that Portugal and the United States were resigning their seats on the Commission effective immediately. The Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed the candidature of the United States to replace Portugal, whose term of office had begun at the opening of the Commission's forty-fourth session in 2010 and would expire at the close of the Commission's forty-seventh session in 2014, and the candidature of Portugal to replace the United States, whose term of office would start at the opening of the Commission's forty-fifth session in 2011 and would expire at the end of the Commission's forty-eighth session in 2015. He took it that the Council wished to elect the United States and Portugal to the aforementioned terms of office.

3. *It was so decided.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

4. **The President** said that he had been advised that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed Chile and Grenada to fill the remaining two seats allocated to the Group. He took it that the Council wished to elect those two countries by acclamation for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2011.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The President** said that, in the absence of other candidates for election to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, he took it that the Council wished to further postpone the election of three candidates from the Group of Western European and Other States group for the same term of office.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The President** reminded the Council that there were four outstanding vacancies on the Governing Council from the Group of Western European and Other States, two terms of office expiring on 31 December 2011 and two terms of office expiring on 31 December 2012. Thus far, no nominees had been proposed to fill those seats.

Committee for Development Policy (E/2010/9/Add.14)

9. **The President** said that a vacancy had arisen in the Committee following the resignation of Mr. Vladimir Popov of the Russian Federation. As outlined in document E/2010/9/Add.14 and pursuant to Council resolutions 1998/46 and 47, the Secretary-General had nominated Mr. Victor Polterovich of the Russian Federation to fill the vacancy. He took it that the Council wished to appoint Mr. Polterovich for a term of office beginning immediately and expiring on 31 December 2012.

10. *It was so decided.*

Regional cooperation (*continued*)

Action on recommendations contained in Chapter I of document E/2010/15/Add.1

Draft resolution entitled "Venue of the thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean"

11. **The President** invited Council members to consider the draft resolution submitted by the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean contained in Chapter I, Section A, of the document.

12. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings"

Draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15"

Draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre"

13. **The President** said that Section B of Chapter I contained three draft resolutions submitted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

14. **Ms. Pliner** (Deputy Secretary of the Council) read out a statement prepared by the Programme Planning and Budget Division on the programme budget implications of the three draft resolutions in Section B of Chapter I of the document, which stated that the implementation of the draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings" and the draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing+15" would entail no programme budget implications for the current biennium, although in both cases, the programme budget implications for the next biennium would have to be reviewed.

15. The draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre" would have no programme budget implications.

16. **The President** invited members to consider the first draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Section for Emerging and Conflict-related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings".

17. **Mr. Morrill** (Canada), supported by **Mr. de Bassompierre** (Belgium) and **Mr. Windsor** (Australia), said that the draft resolution contained some language that was rather political despite the technical nature of the text. He requested that action on the draft resolution be deferred until his delegation and other concerned delegations had had time to discuss the matter.

18. **The President** said that, in the interest of adoption by consensus, consideration of the draft resolution would be deferred pending consultations by interested delegations.

19. *It was so decided.*

20. **The President** invited Council members to consider the second draft resolution entitled "Upgrading the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years".

21. **Mr. Morrill** (Canada), supported by **Mr. de Bassompierre** (Belgium) and **Mr. Windsor** (Australia), said that the same concerns applied to the second draft resolution as well and requested more time to consult with other interested delegations.

22. **The President** said that, in the interest of adoption by consensus, consideration of the draft resolution would be deferred pending consultations by interested delegations.

23. *It was so decided.*

24. **The President** invited Council members to consider the third draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre".

25. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2010/57)

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(k) Women and development (E/2010/27)

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(a) Advancement of women (E/2010/27, E/2010/74)

26. **Ms. Mayanja** (Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women) said that the year 2010 had seen a renewed commitment both at the

United Nations and worldwide to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The review in March 2010 by the Commission on the Status of Women of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals had emphasized that the Beijing Platform was the most comprehensive global policy framework for the full realization of gender equality, women's human rights and the empowerment of women and girls. Although important progress had been made in some areas, most significantly in global, regional and national policy development and in increased access for women and girls to education at all levels, disparities remained between regions and within countries across all 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform. The report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/2010/4-E/CN.6/2010/2 had emphasized that, with the 2015 target date for the Millennium Development Goals fast approaching, stronger action was needed to give enhanced visibility to the gender dimensions of all the Goals. The Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women called upon Member States to recommit to accelerating the implementation of the Platform.

27. The new United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, to be known as UN Women, established under General Assembly resolution 64/289, provided the Organization with a comprehensive mandate to address those imperatives and ensure that they were incorporated in the entire intergovernmental process and in country programmes, while ensuring the critical linkage between lessons learned and experience gained from the normative and operational aspects of the work of the entity.

28. In its agreed conclusions 1997/2, the Economic and Social Council had defined gender mainstreaming as a process with the ultimate goal of achieving gender equality. Since 1997, the United Nations system had been grappling with how to implement the strategy. The establishment of UN Women provided an opportunity to strengthen the process in order to ensure concrete outcomes, especially at the country level, and to harmonize the gender mainstreaming efforts already undertaken by the United Nations system, while simultaneously providing room for area-specific approaches to develop. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and its task forces had played a key role in ensuring effective gender mainstreaming in many critical areas.

29. Despite the progress achieved, remaining challenges must be addressed quickly in order to facilitate the further implementation of gender mainstreaming by the new entity. There was no common understanding of the meaning of the term, and there was widespread confusion as to how to link the process outlined in the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 to outcomes.

30. Achieving gender equality required clear political will at the level of implementation; adequate resources; engagement of women and men alike in a participatory manner; accountability at all levels; and tools with which to measure gender equality.

31. Mandatory training within the United Nations system was required in order to bring about a common understanding of and approach to gender mainstreaming. Training modules were being developed to that end, and additional financial commitment from United Nations entities would be needed to complete them.

32. Without a common understanding of gender mainstreaming, efforts to promote it could be haphazard and uncoordinated. A common understanding would also pave the way for identifying and sharpening tools for measuring progress. Accordingly, agreement on those issues must be one of the first preoccupations of UN Women.

33. **Mr. Nihon** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Norway, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, noted the recently celebrated anniversaries of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Millennium Declaration and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. The European Union considered, furthermore, that the ministerial declaration adopted during the Council's high-level segment provided an excellent basis for the debate leading to the High-level Plenary

Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals to be held in September.

34. The European Union welcomed the establishment of UN Women, the new United Nations composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, which would close the current gap between the normative and operational work of the United Nations in that area and promote effective system-wide gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system. The new body would help the United Nations to meet the urgent and ever-increasing requests by Governments for support in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and would strengthen progress on the ground.

35. With regard to gender mainstreaming and the resolution currently under negotiation in the Council, he noted that gender mainstreaming was more than just adding the word "women" to all texts but required taking into account the different needs of women and men, girls and boys, and seriously making use of tools such as sex-disaggregated data collection, gender-responsive budgeting and gender markers. The European Union therefore supported a consultation with and within the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. The draft resolution should also include a reference to the vital role played by national institutions, as capacity-building and funding of those national institutions was crucial to ensure effective national policy-making on gender equality. The contribution of civil society, especially women's organizations, was also essential.

36. On 5 March, the European Union had reaffirmed its commitment to the advancement of women by adopting the Women's Charter. The five areas of this Charter, namely equal economic independence; equal pay for equal work and work of equal value; equality in decision-making; dignity, integrity and an end to gender-based violence; and the promotion of gender equality in external relations, would be translated into a new strategy for gender equality between women and men.

37. Regarding its external action, the European Union had recently adopted a Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development 2010-2015 as part of its strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The overarching objective of the Action Plan was to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs, especially Goals 3 and 5, as well as to attain the goals set out by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Addressing gender inequality and the disempowerment of women was central to making progress on all of the MDGs.

38. As the financial and economic crisis had led to persistent stress on livelihoods of women and their families, appropriate social protection mechanisms must be strengthened in national health and social security systems, and efforts to combat gender-based violence must be scaled up. Women's equal participation at all levels of decision-making and public and professional life was not only a matter of human rights, but could greatly contribute to strengthening families' and communities' resilience and reversing the current economic crisis. Educating girls and women and promoting women's access to full employment, decent work and working conditions, as well as their access to credit and resources, had a positive multiplier effect on the entire economy. Women's unpaid work, including care work, must be recognized.

39. Maternal and child health issues were complex and ranged from the threat of HIV/AIDS to gender-based violence and a lack of access to primary and reproductive health care, skilled health workers for safe delivery and the management of complications during pregnancy and childbirth. There was a need for action on many fronts, including redirection of government funds and priorities. The European Union welcomed efforts by the Secretary-General to develop a joint action plan for women's and children's health, which would assist in achieving the MDGs.

40. **Mr. Mohammed** (Iraq) said that after centuries of marginalization, the energies of the half of the population that was female were finally being used in the service of development. His country had embraced the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals. Its Constitution provided for gender equality, and its Government had established a strong institutional framework to implement the national strategy developed by the National Committee for the Advancement of Iraqi Women. Its 2006

Nationality Law had prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender in the acquisition of citizenship.

41. The proportion of female representatives in the Iraqi Parliament slightly exceeded the 25 per cent required by law, and two Parliamentary oversight committees were chaired by women. There were five women Cabinet ministers, and women were represented in the courts, the police, the army and the diplomatic corps. Women were also prominent in non-governmental organizations. The social insurance system made allowance for women's special needs, and there was a special police division to handle violence against women. Microcredit was available to help women improve their economic situations, and women in Government jobs were evaluated and promoted solely on the basis of merit. His country would continue to implement policies that promoted the advancement of women in accordance with international standards.

42. **Ms. Velichko** (Observer for Belarus) said that the achievement of equality between men and women was one of the key principles underpinning development. Her Government had undertaken specific obligations in that regard. There were 36 women's organizations operating in Belarus, and women accounted for 19 per cent of leaders of State agencies, 46 per cent of judges and 51 per cent of academics. An increasing number of women were involved in decision-making, and 30 per cent of members of Parliament were women.

43. A national machinery had been set up to coordinate the activities of all entities dealing with gender issues and to ensure the implementation of national policy for gender equality and the advancement of women. One of the outcomes of its work was the preparation of a number of national action plans aimed at promoting equality and improving the status of women through a variety of measures.

44. Her Government was in the process of updating national legislation in order to bring it into line with international legal norms. Belarus was a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and had submitted its seventh periodic report on implementation of the Convention in preparation for its dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in January 2011.

45. **Ms. Phipps** (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the formation of UN Women, the new United Nations gender entity, and looked forward to increased efficiency and coordination in the various areas of work on women's issues. She hoped that the programme of work of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women would be adjusted so as to allow time for an address by the head of the new entity and to allow a meeting of the entity's Executive Board to be scheduled during the session so that Commission members could participate as observers.

46. A key task of the new entity would be to hold all parts of the United Nations system accountable for gender mainstreaming. Her delegation was working with others on a strong Council resolution that would lay the groundwork for greater progress in that area. It also looked forward to the appointment of a dynamic and skilled leader for UN Women and would support efforts to ensure that the new entity was effective and cohesive.

47. **Ms. Taracena Secaira** (Guatemala) reiterated her Government's commitment to improving the status of women, reducing remaining gender gaps and promoting the participation of women — particularly indigenous women — in public life and elective office, in both urban and rural areas. Institutions such as the Office for the Defence of Women's Rights, the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights, the Presidential Secretariat for Women and the National Coordinating Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women would continue to be strengthened.

48. Furthermore, in striving to meet agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, her Government would continue to develop plans, programmes and projects aimed at facilitating the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty and promoting education, health and the right to a life free of violence. Programmes would focus more on areas inhabited predominantly by indigenous peoples and would engage women in particular as agents of change.

49. Her delegation was pleased at the Council's decision to address current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women in its thematic discussion, given how much remained to be accomplished in order

to reach agreed targets. It also welcomed the decision to establish a single entity, UN Women, to manage the institutional framework for United Nations activities for women.

50. In conclusion, her delegation urged United Nations bodies whose activities affected vulnerable groups such as women, children, indigenous peoples, people living with disabilities and migrants to continue to include them in their programmes of work.

51. **Ms. Kavun** (Ukraine) said that the participation of women in Government and civic affairs was essential to the political and socio-economic stability of countries and to decision-making with respect to the promotion of peace and security.

52. Ukraine had made substantial progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives established in the outcome documents of both the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. National action plans and legal regulations based on those documents and on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol had been adopted and implemented.

53. Her Government would make every effort to address the recommendations and concerns conveyed in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning Ukraine's combined sixth and seventh periodic report to the Committee. It had taken into account the recommendations of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the report of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its seventh session and the Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcomes of the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2009 and 2010.

54. The Constitution of Ukraine proclaimed the equality of rights and opportunities of women and men in all spheres of life, a principle that was also embodied in national legislation. The Government's main priorities in support of women were to increase gender awareness, overcome gender stereotypes, establish a rapid-response mechanism to meet needs of persons in difficult circumstances resulting from gender-based domestic violence or discrimination, improve the system for compiling national statistics on gender discrimination, create equal opportunities for men and women in the workplace and ensure gender mainstreaming in the Ministry of Defence. Two important documents designed to further the cause of equal rights for women would soon be submitted for adoption by the Government.

55. In conclusion, she reiterated her country's commitment to the full and effective implementation of the goals set out in the global gender agenda.

56. **Mr. Rakovskiy** (Russian Federation) said that the decisions of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly provided important guidance with regard to the promotion of gender equality at the national and international levels. The Commission on the Status of Women also had a crucial role to play in that regard.

57. His delegation welcomed the General Assembly's recent decision to establish a new "hybrid" gender entity that would increase the effectiveness of the Organization's efforts to improve the status of women while maintaining accountability to Member States. Cooperation between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of UN Women would boost the new entity's activities.

58. In the Russian Federation, the gender perspective was taken into account fully in the various programmes and decisions that affected the status of women. A few days previously, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had considered the Russian Federation's combined sixth and seventh periodic reports on its implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Committee's concluding observations and recommendations would be analysed with a view to their implementation.

59. Current efforts to improve the status of women were focused on mitigating the impact of the global financial and economic crisis. Financial independence for women was a crucial component of genuine gender equality. His Government fully supported the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which highlighted the importance of women's economic empowerment in overcoming the crisis and ensuring decent work for all. Particularly important was the creation of conditions that would allow women to achieve an optimal work-life balance.

60. In the Russian Federation, women made up half of the workforce and represented a significant proportion of entrepreneurs, particularly in small and medium-sized businesses. In addition, more than 40 per cent of managers were women. His Government also supported ILO efforts to help women start their own businesses, which would not only improve the situation of women and their families but would also facilitate job creation.

61. **Ms. Hwang** Hyuni (Republic of Korea) said that her delegation would fully cooperate in the establishment and operation of the new United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, UN Women, and urged the prompt appointment of a qualified Under-Secretary-General for the entity. UN Women must adequately prioritize and streamline current initiatives and programmes in collaboration with the Economic and Social Council.

62. Although the Republic of Korea welcomed the progress made in gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, it agreed that it was necessary to define the concept more clearly and identify an assessment mechanism acceptable to diverse Governments, entities and individuals. UN Women had a major role to play in that regard.

63. In conclusion, she endorsed the calls for accelerated efforts to fully implement internationally agreed goals and commitments and reaffirmed her delegation's unwavering support for United Nations initiatives in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

64. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile) said that her delegation had greatly appreciated the presence of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held recently in Brasilia. The Conference had adopted the Brasilia Consensus, which set out specific goals relating to the advancement of women, and a resolution welcoming the creation of the new United Nations gender entity.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fourth session (E/2010/27)

Draft decision entitled "Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women"

65. **The President** drew attention to chapter I, section A, of the report, which contained a draft decision entitled "Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women".

66. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women"

67. **The President** drew attention to chapter I, section B, of the report, which contained a draft resolution entitled "Situation of assistance to Palestinian women". The draft resolution had been adopted by the Commission by a recorded vote of 31 to 2, with 9 abstentions.

68. **Ms. Phipps** (United States of America) said that, as the draft resolution had been adopted by a recorded vote in the Commission, her delegation wished to request a recorded vote at the current meeting.

69. **The President** asked if any delegation wished to make a general statement.

70. **Ms. Davidovich** (Observer for Israel) said her delegation was dismayed that the Council was being forced to consider the draft resolution, an annual politically motivated initiative which, by focusing on only one group of women, ignored the needs of countless others who did not have powerful political blocs to lobby on their behalf. Moreover, it was misleading and one-sided, as it ignored a number of challenges that Palestinian women faced, such as the imposition by Hamas of restrictions on women's freedoms. It also failed to note that Palestinian women had widely benefited from economic growth and from the fact that Israel allowed all goods that were not weapons or other war materiel into the Gaza Strip.

71. The draft resolution scapegoated Israel instead of addressing the situation on the ground, thus diminishing the Council's credibility and reinforcing the sad reality that certain countries cared about the plight of women only if it could be used as a political weapon. Her Government continued to call for direct negotiations with the Palestinians in pursuit of a solution that would involve two States living side-by-side in peace and security, so as to improve the

condition of Israeli and Palestinian women alike. She called on all countries to vote against the draft resolution.

72. **Mr. Zeidan** (Observer for Palestine) said that the Council, in its yearly resolution on the situation of Palestinian women, had consistently highlighted the repression, humiliation and lack of development suffered by Palestinian women under foreign Israeli occupation, which was now in its forty-third year. It also reaffirmed the rights of all women living under such occupation. Palestinian women were in a special situation in that their rights were violated every day by a State Member of the United Nations. Since the text of the draft resolution had been agreed upon by the Group of 77 and China, he urged all delegations to vote in favour of it.

73. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Congo, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against:

Australia, Canada, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malta, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

74. *The draft resolution was adopted by 24 votes to 3, with 15 abstentions.*

75. **Mr. Windsor** (Australia) said that his Government had consistently expressed its deep concern at the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories, including with regard to women. However, it had decided to oppose the draft resolution because it introduced political issues into the Council unnecessarily, did not reflect the responsibilities of all parties to address the situation and did not contribute constructively to the goal of a negotiated solution to the conflict or to improving the situation on the ground.

76. His Government had made clear its strong support for efforts to achieve a comprehensive and enduring peace based on a two-State solution. It welcomed the proximity talks mediated by the United States of America and urged the parties to use them as a step towards direct negotiations and to refrain from any action that undermined trust. All countries had a responsibility to support those efforts.

77. In support of the peace process, Australia was contributing to the development of Palestinian institutions and had also provided humanitarian assistance, including to women, worth more than $125 million since 2007. Those contributions were being used to build the capacity of schools and health clinics, assist the Palestinian Authority with recovery and reconstruction efforts, and build the institutions necessary for Palestinian statehood.

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fourth session and provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission"

78. **The President** drew attention to Chapter I, Section C, of the report, which contained a draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fourth session and provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission".

79. **Mr. Rodríguez** (Peru), referring to the Commission's resolution 54/2 entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS" and resolution 54/5 entitled "Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women", said that his Government would take account of their provisions insofar as they were compatible with the Peruvian Constitution and Peru's international obligations under the human rights treaties to which it was a party. In that context, and given that abortion was an offence under the Peruvian Penal Code, his Government believed that the best way of avoiding unwanted pregnancies was to encourage responsible behaviour through education on sexual and reproductive health.

80. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile) said that the Political Constitution of Chile protected the life of the unborn child. Her delegation therefore wished to reiterate the reservations it had expressed at the Commission's fifty-fourth session before the adoption of resolutions 54/2 and 54/5, the content of which it accepted only on the understanding that they did not endorse abortion and to

the extent that they were compatible with Chile's national laws and regulations.

81. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women" (E/2010/L.21)

82. **The President** drew attention to the draft resolution contained in E/2010/L.21, entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women", submitted by the President of the Council, Mr. Hamidon Ali (Malaysia), on the basis of informal consultations. He had been advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. He suggested the addition of a fourth preambular paragraph, to read as follows: "*Expressing* its deep gratitude for the support offered by the host country during all the years of operation of the Institute".

83. *Draft resolution E/2010/L.21, as orally revised, was adopted.*

84. **Mr. Montilla** (Dominican Republic) said that the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), which was to be dissolved pursuant to the resolution just adopted, had served as a tool for the advancement of women around the world, particularly in developing countries, since its establishment in 1976. The Dominican Republic, which had a long tradition of fighting for gender equality and women's rights, had been the Institute's host country since 1983. His delegation was confident that the incorporation of the functions of INSTRAW into the mandate of the new gender entity would result in more effective training and research work, supported by predictable and generous resources and an adequate number of qualified staff. The Dominican Republic would also continue to carry out training and research, taking advantage of its experience, facilities, geographical location and low operating costs. With the dissolution of INSTRAW, a chapter in the history of the struggle for women's advancement was closing; however, with the establishment of UN Women, a new one was opening.

85. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile) expressed appreciation to the Dominican Republic for having contributed to the advancement of women by hosting the headquarters of INSTRAW from 1983. Following the recommendation of the first World Conference on Women, held in Mexico in 1975, that such an institute should be established, the Council had recommended that it should be located in a developing country. Thanks to the generosity of the Government of the Dominican Republic, INSTRAW had served the interests of women in the developing world, in particular Latin America and the Caribbean, by carrying out studies and training on a variety of subjects such as migrant women, indigenous women, financing for development and the political participation of women.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.